	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/717 164	MASKELL, THOMAS JOSEPH
Notice of Allowability	10/717,164 Examiner	Art Unit
	Scott Kastler	1742
The MAILING DATE of this communication apperature All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIOF of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	ears on the cover sheet with the of (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this apport or other appropriate communication is subject.	correspondence address oplication. If not included n will be mailed in due course. THIS
1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed	<u>on 11/7/2005</u> .	
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 21-30.		
3.	e been received. e been received in Application No cuments have been received in this of this communication to file a reply MENT of this application. itted. Note the attached EXAMINER es reason(s) why the oath or declarate	c national stage application from the complying with the requirements R'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF ation is deficient.
(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers	son's Patent Drawing Review (PTO	-948) attached
1) 🗌 hereto or 2) 🔲 to Paper No./Mail Date		
(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1	.84(c)) should be written on the draw	ings in the front (not the back) of
each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in t 6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the depo attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT	sit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL	must be submitted. Note the
Attachment(s) 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0 Paper No./Mail Date 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	6. ☐ Interview Summary Paper No./Mail Da 98), 7. ☐ Examiner's Amend	ate
		9COTT KASTLER PRIMARY EXAMINER

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office PTOL-37 (Rev. 7-05) Art Unit: 1742

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Each of the instant claims 21-30 are allowable over the cited prior art at least because none of the cited prior art shows or fairly suggests a refractory stopper with an electrically conductive coating, where the coating is further electrically connected to a control means in order to control or affect the flow of molten metal. The closest applied prior art (LaBate) teaches the use of a coating which is electrically conductive (graphite) however, LaBate employs the coating in order to avoid sticking, rather than for the formation of an electrical circuit, and therefore does not fairly suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art at the tie the invention was made the further step of providing electrical connection to a control circuit as required by all of the instant claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Kastler whose telephone number is (571) 272-1243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Scott Kastler Primary Examiner Art Unit 1742

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